



Annual Activities Report 2017

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

THE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The production of a comprehensive expert assessment of the Joint Staff Working Document “Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020: Focusing on key priorities and tangible results” - prepared by 20 experts. The study has been welcomed by the authorities as well as by the Ukrainian civil society, as it gives a precise picture of Ukraine’s needs and realities, and allow the document to be adjusted to the Ukrainian current situation.
- Increasing visibility and influence of the UNP on the Ukrainian civil and political scene, notably through the EU-funded project “Civic Synergy”, which has boosted the UNP’s activities by providing support for implementation of numerous projects, conducting events and preparing analytical papers. It has also enlarged the partners of the UNP’s members to both Ukrainian and international actors
- Development of a bi-annual Strategic plan for the years 2018-2020 which, if properly implemented, will be able to make the Platform a major player in the European Integration process and reforms implementation in Ukraine

ACTIVITIES OF THE PLATFORM IN 2017

Adoption of the UNP Strategic Plan 2018-2020

For the first time since the UNP has launched its activities in Ukraine in 2011 it developed the detailed plan for development for several years ahead. It took about half a year to elaborate the plan. In particular, during October 2016-March 2017 the UNP Steering Committee and invited experts held a series of strategic planning sessions which resulted in the draft UNP Strategic Plan for 2018-2020. The issues related to drafting the UNP Strategic Plan were also discussed by UNP members during the UNP Annual Conference in November 2016. The proposals submitted by UNP members in November-December 2016 were taken into consideration while drafting the document.

In April 2017 the project was finalized and adopted by the UNP Steering Committee as a basic framework document; this decision was confirmed by UNP members’ voting at the UNP Annual Conference in October 2017. The document, among others, defines the Platform’s mission and strategic vision, values, the principles of interaction with stakeholders, strategic and operational goals of activities.

Establishing cooperation with the authorities and other stakeholders

During February-August 2017 a number of meetings with the representatives of authorities and projects of the international technical assistance, diplomats, etc. were held, during which the opportunities for cooperation were discussed. In particular:



- February, 24 – meeting with Artem Bidenko, State Secretary of the Ministry of Information Policy of Ukraine was held (4 participants);
- February, 24 and March, 20 – meeting with Mariia Ionova, Acting head of the Verkhovna Rada’s European Integration Committee as well as the representatives of Committee’s Secretariat (8 and 10 participants respectively);
- February, 28 – meeting with the representatives of the EU Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (9 participants);
- March, 10 – Meeting with the Director of the Government Office for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Olga Stefanishyna (8 participants);
- March, 13 – meeting with the Deputy Ministers of the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine Mykola Movchan and Oleksandr Yarema (7 participants);
- March, 23 – meeting with the team of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility Project (8 participants);
- March, 30 – meeting with Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration (9 participants);
- June, 16 – the experts of the Eastern Partnership Regional Fund for Public Administration Reform operating under GIZ (3 participants);
- July, 3 – meeting with the Ambassador of Estonia in Ukraine Gert Antsu (3 participants);
- July, 21 – meeting at the EU Delegation in Ukraine (18 participants);
- August, 23 – meeting with officials of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova (approximately 15 participants);
- September 13 – meeting with the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of Estonia Sven Mikser (9 participants).

UNP analytical activities

During the reporting period within the framework of the Civic Synergy Project the UNP conducted such analytical activities:

- *Expert assessment of the Joint Staff Working Document “Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020”*

In February 2017 the Ukrainian-language version of the Joint Staff Working Document was prepared (unofficial translation) with the support of the Civic Synergy Project. Also, in April 2017 the representatives of UNP WGs contributed to the policy brief on assessment of “20 Deliverables for 2020” prepared by EaP CSF, by submitting their proposals. At the same time, during April-July 2017 the UNP conducted its own expert review of the document. 20 UNP experts assessed whether the targets set by “EaP 20 Deliverables” for 2017 and 2020 are relevant, realistic and ambitious for Ukraine. It is expected that the results of the expert analysis will serve as an important advocacy instrument to advance internal reforms in Ukraine and develop a common policy in the EaP region.

The study was presented during the UNP Annual Conference 2017 (3 October, more information: <http://eap-csf.org.ua/pid-chas-shhorichnoyi-konferentsiyi-unp-prezentuvani-ekspertnu-otsinku-20-ochikuvanih-dosyagnen-shidnogo-partnerstva-do-2020-r/>) and was highly assessed by the representatives of authorities who attended the event.



- *Other analytical activities*

One of directions of activities supported by the Civic Synergy Project is writing the policy papers. In 2017 among the proposals submitted by the WGs' members such topics were selected:

- "Studying the effectiveness of psychological and social support for children and families of the internally displaced people in the communities and enclaves for integration and development of children, and influence of such support on formation of the children's needs and their life plans" (Olena Sichkar, NGO "Social Initiatives on Health and Labour Protection"; Olga Tsviliy, NGO "Bureau for Social and Political Developments", Ilona Yelenieva, "Social Initiatives on Health and Labour Protection")
- "Access of SMEs of Ukraine to the EU financial resources: development of existing and alternative sources of financing" (Yuriy Vdovenko, "Centre for Cross-Border cooperation, Viktor Zhykh, All-Ukrainian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises "Fortetsia", Maksym Koriavets "Polissya Foundation for International and Regional Studies")
- "The prospects for social dialogue in Ukraine" (Svitlana Vnuchko, All-Ukrainian Trade Union in the Tourist, Recreation and Hotel Spheres; Viktor Khmiliovskyi, Union of Tenants and Entrepreneurs of Ukraine, Viacheslav Roi – Centre for Social Security and Regional Initiatives).

Meetings of the UNP Working Groups



Since the end of December 2016 – during the first half of 2017 each of the UNP Working Groups held at least 2 WG meetings:

- WG1 ("Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability") – on 22 December 2016 and 2 June 2017
- WG2 ("Economic integration and convergence with EU policies") – on 23 December 2016 and 11 May 2017
- WG3 ("Environment, change of climate and energy security") – on 17 January and 25 May 2017
- WG4 ("Contacts between people") – on 20 January and 1 June 2017;
- WG5 ("Social and labour policies and social dialogue") – on 21 December 2016, 25 January and 11 April 2017

During the meetings the members of the Working Groups defined the thematic priorities and the specific initiatives for their common activities in 2017. In accordance with the defined thematic priorities the corresponding subgroups in the most of Working Groups were formed.



Participation in the activities of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Since the UNP representatives Hennadiy Maksak and Yuriy Vdovenko are the members of the EaP SCF Steering Committee (Hennadiy Maksak is the Co-Chair of the Steering Committee and Yuriy Vdovenko is WG2 Coordinator), they have an opportunity to promote and advance the Ukrainian issues for the Forum's agenda. The UNP representatives also take part in the process of organizational reform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and drafting the EaP CSF Strategic Plan for 2018-2020.

In particular, in 2017 Hennadiy Maksak and Yuriy Vdovenko took part in 4 meetings of the Steering Committee which were held:

- on 1-2 February (Brussels)
- on 24-25 April (Tallinn, Helsinki)
- on 7-8 July (Vilnius)
- on 23 September (Chisinau)

Other UNP representatives took part in the meetings of the Working groups of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum:

WG1 – May, 11-12 (Brussels)

WG2 – June, 6-8 (Chisinau)

WG3 – May, 29-30 (Brussels)

WG4 – June, 20-21 (Warsaw)

WG5 – July, 10 (Brussels)

Re-granting

- *Projects implemented under the EaP CSF re-granting scheme*

Among 16 projects supported in 2017 under the EaP CSF re-granting scheme there are 2 projects at which the leading implementers are Ukrainian NGOs:

- “Smart waste management in Eastern Partnership Countries” (NGO “Good deeds”);
- “Advancing Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine for the European Environmental Governance Reforms” (MAMA-86).

Both NGOs conduct their activities within the framework of the Working group 3 (“Environment, climate change and energy security”) of the UNP and the EaP CSF.

In addition, Ukrainian NGOs are the partner organizations in other 9 out of 14 projects.

- *Projects implemented under the Civic Synergy Project*

Under the sub-grant component of the Civic Synergy Project 17 projects were supported, 16 of which are implemented by the UNP members. These projects envisage preparing the policy papers, organizing public events and discussions with stakeholders on implementation of the international commitments and policies development in the corresponding spheres, preparing the common recommendations, awareness-raising and advocacy activities related to

implementation of the priorities of the Association Agreement, Association Action Plan and the Eastern Partnership 20 Deliverables for 2020.



- *Trainings for Platform's members, improving their skills*

In 2017 several events were held aimed at improving the knowledge and skills of the UNP members in the issues related to NGOs' analytical and advocacy activities. In particular, on 3rd of April the training organized by the Civic Synergy Project was held to provide methodological support to the UNP members participating in the elaboration of policy papers under the Civic Synergy Project's policy analysis component. The training was focused on explaining methodological issues, obtaining skills of effective policy paper writing and learning by doing through accomplishing practical tasks.

Also, on 13-15 July the 3-day intensive training on advocacy was organized under the brand of Civic Synergy School for the UNP representatives as well as the authors of policy papers and experts implementing the sub-granting projects. The participants improved their knowledge and learnt new skills in advocacy campaigns' design and realization as well as relevant communication mechanisms. As a result of the training, 6 draft advocacy campaigns were developed.

- *Special events on the topical issues*

In 2017, the UNP conducted a range of events on important issues related to Ukrainian political agenda setting or the process of European integration, European values, etc. Among them, in particular:

- Celebrating Europe's Day: "Eco-Platform" event (by UNP's WG3, on 14 May): On the occasion of Europe's Day celebration, the organizations – members of the Working Group 3 "Environment, climate change and energy security" held 1-day event in Kyiv dedicated to sustainable development (so-called "Eco-Platform"). WG3 members delivered 11 presentations and speeches on different topics related to energy efficiency, waste management and climate change. WG3 members also informed the citizens about the activities being conducted by the UNP EaP CSF, UNP's WG3 and the particular UNP members.

- Discussion «Crimean Tatars: the problems of legal status, rights protection, self-identification and self-realization in contemporary Ukraine» (23 May): Natalia Belitser, expert of Pylyp Orlyk Institute for Democracy (participant of the UNP's WG1 "Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability") presented her study «Crimean Tatars as the Indigenous People (History of the Issue and Contemporary Realities)». The representatives of authorities and CSOs – members of the Platform – took part in this event. The book was issued in March 2017 and offered the solutions for numerous problems related to regulation the legal status of Crimean Tatars in Ukraine, as well as highlighted the examples of regulation of rights and duties of the indigenous people by the international legislation and legislations of particular countries. The presentation was followed by active discussion in which the UNP members and representatives of authorities took part.

- The first "visa-free train" (11 June): The CSOs (UNP members) held the PR event drawing attention of the citizens and stakeholders to the event of crucial importance for EI reform process – coming into force of the visa-free regime granted to Ukraine. On the first day when the visa-free regime came into force (11 June), the symbolic departure of "the first visa-free train" was held under the aegis of Ukrainian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and supported by the Civic Synergy Project. The Ukrainian officials



(among them – the VPM Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze) and foreign diplomats came to congratulate the first passengers – experts, artists and the civic activists who had been advocating the visa-free regime for Ukraine for a long time. In Poland, the delegation was met by Ukraine’s Ambassador in Poland Andriy Deshchytsia and the representatives of local authorities. Later in Poland the expert discussion about visa-free regime role for Ukraine, and the country’s further vector of development was held.

COOPERATION OF THE UNP WITH STAKEHOLDERS, PLATFORM’S INFLUENCE ON THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The UNP on a regular basis has been cooperating with the authorities (the meetings between the UNP Steering Committee and the representatives of authorities which have been held in 2017 are listed above), but also additional cooperation between the UNP experts and the experts from particular sectors representing executive and legislative bodies is being held.

Among the main issues stressed by the UNP – the need of timely and appropriate implementation of Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine, strengthening the role of Ukraine within the Eastern Partnership, enhancement of the security component in the Eastern Partnership, deepening the cooperation between the EU and EaP countries which are implementing AAs and reforms expressing their willingness of closer integration with the EU (Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova).

The UNP regularly cooperates with the EU Delegation in Ukraine, providing the exchange of thoughts between the experts of the Platform and the EU Delegation. The representatives of the EU Delegation in Ukraine have participated in the UNP’s events. In particular, the First Secretary of the Political Section of the European Union Delegation to Ukraine Evelina Shulz took part in the presentation of the UNP’s expert assessment of “EaP 20 Deliverables for 2020”, first informally presented at the meeting at Estonian Embassy in Kyiv (19 July 2017) and then – at the formal presentation of study at the UNP Annual Conference on 3 October.

The EU Delegation in Ukraine also invited the representatives of UNP EaP CSF to share the expectations of Ukrainian civil society on the AA Progress Report, being elaborated by the EU Delegation (the meeting took place on 21st of July). The methodology of this report was presented; whereas the Platform’s representatives shared their expectations regarding the AA Progress Report. They also agreed about closer cooperation and taking into account the analytical products of the CSOs in the EU Delegation’s work.

In 2017 the UNP also has developed a fruitful cooperation with the Estonian Embassy in Ukraine. The second half of 2017 (1 July -31 December 2017) is the period of Estonian Presidency in the Council of Europe. On 3 July the UNP’s Country Facilitator Hennadiy Maksak met with the Ambassador of Estonia in Ukraine Gert Antsu and discussed the prospects for cooperation during half-year of Estonian presidency in the EU Council. On July, 19 the representatives of the UNP EaP CSF and the Civic Synergy Project had an informal meeting at the Estonian Embassy in Kyiv with the Ambassador of Estonia Gert Antsu and the representatives of other Embassies of the EU Member States. Hennadiy Maksak and UNP experts told about the expert study on assessment of “EaP 20 deliverables for 2020” supported by the Civic Synergy Project and the general discussion on opportunities and challenges of the Eastern Partnership and Ukraine’s role in this process took place. Finally, H.E. Mr. Gert



Antsu participated in the UNP Annual Conference addressing the participants with the welcoming words.

STATEMENTS OF THE UKRAINE NATIONAL PLATFORM

EaP CSF Steering Committee Statement on the Escalation of the Conflict in the Donbas region of Ukraine by the Russian Federation http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/EaPCSF_Statement_Avdiyivka_1Feb2017.pdf

EaP CSF Steering Committee Statement on the Deterioration of Human Rights Situation in Crimea http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/EaP-CSF_SC_HR-Crimea_9-Feb-2017.pdf

EaP CSF Steering Committee Statement on the Recent Amendments to the Law on Electronic Declaration of Assets in Ukraine http://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/Statement_electronic-declarations.pdf

Also, the UNP Country Facilitator Hennadiy Maksak as the Co-Chair of the EaP CSF Steering Committee took part in the Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting which took place on 19 June 2017 in Luxembourg. The meeting, chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, gathered all EU member states' Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Foreign Affairs from the six EaP countries and EU officials, including Commissioner Johannes Hahn (European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations).

Among others, the Co-Chair of the EaP CSF SC Hennadiy Maksak emphasized the role of CSOs as active actors in the implementation of reforms together with the respective governments and called for a greater involvement of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, particularly in policy-making. Having outlined the positive developments from the first half of 2017, as well as having raised a number of critical points, Maksak called on EaP countries' authorities to address the most important issues in their respective countries, and appealed on the EU institutions to keep the EaP policy at the top of its agenda, as well as to contribute to the stability of the EaP region, crucial to the stability of the EU itself.

At the national level, the UNP also contributed to the development of the Strategy of communication in the sphere of European integration of Ukraine for 2018-2021. The draft of the Strategy and the corresponding draft of the President's Decree are currently being developed by the State Committee for television and radio broadcasting of Ukraine in order to implement the state policy in the sphere of European integration of Ukraine. According to the assignment of the Vice Prime Minister on the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, the development of the strategy should be based on "The Strategy of communicating the European integration of Ukraine and the Strategy's implementation plan" which was developed by NGO "Internews Ukraine" (member of WG1 of the UNP EaP CSF) with engagement of foreign partners. The special meeting to discuss the related issues was held on June, 16, in which the UNP representatives also took part.

The UNP WG4 ("Contacts between people") has been actively cooperating with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine being involved into common developing the Concept of Programme on Supporting Youth Engagement (the campaign on drafting the law "On youth") as well as advocating the Law of Ukraine "On youth centres". The experts and member NGOs



of the UNP WG4 also initiated the launch of the Council's of Europe programme supporting the priority of civic engagement through development of e-democracy. The UNP WG4 also advocated the inclusion of the youth component into the Action Plan of the Council of Europe for 2018-21 to ensure the effective cooperation and enhance the efforts aimed at providing youth with the opportunities for education, self-realization and participation in the state development at the local, regional and national levels.

The Working Group 5 in April 2017 adopted the statement by which expressed the concern about the adoption procedure and a number of provisions of the Draft Labour Code of Ukraine. They called on the Government of Ukraine and the leadership of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to ensure an open and public discussion of the Draft Labour Code of Ukraine. The statement – on behalf of the Ukrainian National Platform, and the EaP CSF WG5 - was also adopted at the EaP CSF's level (https://eap-csf.eu/wp-content/uploads/UNP_WG5_Labour-Code_final.pdf).

INPUT OF THE UNO WG MEMBERS TO THE EAP PANEL MEETINGS AND EAP CSF WORKING GROUPS MEETINGS



While participating in the EaP CSF's WGs meetings, the UNP representatives actively took part in the discussions on the contemporary trends and challenges in the spheres of their activities, had an opportunity to meet with key stakeholders influencing the agenda formation in the corresponding areas, to discuss the internal issues of Forum's functioning and the issues related to organization of the EaP CSF Annual Assembly 2017.

The UNP members also participated actively in the additional side events as well as in the EaP panels. For instance, within the framework of the EaP CSF WG1 the open side event "How Security Assistance Can Contribute to Defence Reform in Ukraine: Civil Society Perspective" was organized in cooperation with the Independent Defence Anti-Corruption Committee (NAKO), Transparency International Defence & Security Programme, marking the launch of the NAKO strategy 2017-2018 and its first report on corruption risks in security assistance. Oleh Rybachuk, Co-chair, Independent Defence AntiCorruption Committee, Katherine Dixon, Programme Director, TI Defence & Security Programme and Hennadiy Maksak, Ukrainian Prism, EaP CSF SC Co-chair, WG1 Security SWG coordinator featured as speakers.

Moreover, beyond the official programme of EaP CSF WG1 meeting the participants of the UNP's WG1 Natalia Belitser and Iryna Bekeshkina met with the representatives of the EEAS to discuss the situation in Donbass and Crimea.

In March 2017 the UNP WG1 representative Volodymyr Kupriy (CCC Creative Centre) prepared the statement (on behalf of the UNP EaP CSF) on the reform of public administration in Ukraine. At the meeting of the Working Group "Public Administration Reform" of the EaP thematic platform "Democracy, good governance and stability", which was held on 16-17 March in Kyiv, Volodymyr Kupriy announced the text of the statement



(http://eap-csf.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/UNP_Statement.pdf) and the key issues to the meeting participants.

The representatives of UNP WG2 also actively participated in the meetings of the thematic expert panels of EaP platforms as well as in the events related to harmonization of digital markets:

- 5-th meeting of the Eastern Partnership Panel on statistics on innovation and R&D under the Thematic platform #2 “Economic integration and convergence with EU policies” (22-23 May 2017, Tbilisi);
- 3rd EaP Panel on harmonization of digital markets (19-20 September 2017, Brussels);
- Conference “From innovative ideas to successful businesses: promoting the national systems of early stage financing of innovative companies in EaP countries” under the EaP Panel on research & innovations (21 September 2017, Minsk).
- 13th Eastern Partnership Panel on transport.

The representatives of UNP WG3, in particular, Anna Golubovska-Onisimova took part in the 5th meeting of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Environment and Climate Change (Brussels, 2-3 March). Together with another representative from the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (Inga Zafarian), they proposed a range of events related to the environmental governance. The Declaration on cooperation on Environment and Climate Change in the Eastern Partnership was adopted at this EaP Panel.

The UNP WG4 members advocated the support of additional opportunities for mobility programmes at the Eastern Partnership Youth Forum (Warsaw, Poland, June 2017).

GENERAL INFO ABOUT THE UNP AND ITS WGS (SUB-GROUPS)

Membership

Currently (October 2017) the UNP EaP CSF includes 202 members, including:

- WG1 “Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability” – 70 NGOs
- WG2 “Economic integration and convergence with EU policies” – 24 NGOs
- WG3 “Environment, climate change and energy security” – 28 NGOs
- WG4 “Contacts between people” – 42 NGOs
- WG5 “Social and labour policies and social dialogue” – 38 NGOs

Platform’s subgroups

In 2017 the Working Groups defined their thematic priorities, according to which the subgroups were created within the corresponding Working Groups:

WG1 “Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability” (Coordinator – Andriy Kulakov,	<i>Subgroups</i>
	1.Human rights and gender equality
	2.Security and stability
	3.Good governance and sectoral policies”



“Internews Ukraine”)	4.Freedom of speech, media and strategic communications
WG2 “Economic integration and convergence with EU policies” (Coordinator – Maksym Koriavets, Polissya Foundation for International and Regional Studies)	<i>Subgroups</i>
	1.Regulatory environment and SMEs development
	2.Regulatory policy and cross-border cooperation
	3.Harmonization of digital markets
WG3 “Environment, climate change and energy security” (Coordinator – Oleksandra Gumeniuk, “Good Deeds”)	4.Economic connections with the EU and the EaP region
	<i>Subgroups</i>
	Ecological governance
	Energetics (energy policy, energy efficiency, renewable sources of energy)
WG4 “Contacts between people” (Coordinator – Mariia Symonova, Anticorruption Campaign “Clean Universities”)	Climate change (prevention and adaptation to climate change)
	<i>Subgroups</i>
	Youth
	Education
WG5 “Social and labour policies and social dialogue” (Coordinator – Viacheslav Roi, “Centre for Social Security and Regional Initiatives”)	Culture
	Seniors
	<i>Subgroups</i>
	Social dialogue
	Labour protection
	Subsistence level and overcoming poverty in Ukraine

During December 2016 - September 2017 8 new members were accepted, and 2 NGOs renewed their membership in the Platform. Approximately 80 NGOs submitted the applications for membership to the UNP EaP CSF, however, the decision on most applications is pending still. The UNP Steering Committee has been working on development of the UNP membership policy in 2017 thus it was decided not to accept the new members until this policy will come into force (as expected – in the end on 2017).

At the same time, in order to improve knowledge of the new members and the candidates for membership on UNP’s activities, the common meeting for them and Steering Committee was held on 28 March 2017. The purpose of the event was to tell the new and potential members more comprehensively and in the details about the main goals, principles and mechanisms of the activities of the UNP and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum as well as about how they interact. Also, the participants got to know more on the role of the “Civic Synergy” Project in UNP work, as well as how they can benefit from and contribute to UNP’s activities.

Adoption of new regulations

In 2017 the UNP Steering Committee has elaborated three documents regulating UNP’s functioning and defining the vectors of its further development:

- UNP Strategic Plan 2018-2020
- UNP Policy membership
- UNP communications rules



All documents drafts were presented and discussed during the UNP Annual Conference (3-4 October 2017). The special Working groups were created which during the month (by 3 November 2017) have to improve the documents before their final adoption.

EFFORTS MADE TO INCREASE VISIBILITY AND BETTER PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF THE NP AND FORUM

Communication channels

During the reporting period the UNP actively highlighted its activities at the web page and in the social networks (Facebook). In addition to these communications channels used earlier, in 2017 one more channel was used to spread the information about UNP's activities – UNP newsletter. The newsletter is being prepared by UNP Secretariat and is usually published once per 1 or 2 month, depending on the intensity of Platform's activities. During January-August 5 issues of UNP newsletter were published; the audience of the newsletter is about 250 e-mails.

Also, in October 2017 the new official Facebook-page has launched to function, in addition to the existing Facebook-group.

Active cooperation with stakeholders

During the reporting period, the UNP Steering Committee held numerous meetings with the stakeholders in order to increase Platform's visibility and to improve its public perception.

COOPERATION OR JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER NPS/WGS



Most of joint activities with other NPs were related to the projects implemented under the EaP CSF re-granting scheme. Below are described some of these events:

- Press conference "How the Kremlin propaganda influences the media of the post-Soviet countries" (Kyiv, 10 March) - Presenting the results of the international research about influence of the Russian propaganda on media in the Eastern Partnership countries (within the framework of EaP CSF project "Joining efforts and skills to confront propaganda") was held at this press conference. Boris Navasardian (Yerevan Press Club, Armenia; Head of the international group of the project), and Andriy Kulakov (Internews Ukraine, implemented the Ukrainian part of the research) have shared their conclusions, impressions and recommendations with the participants. The project which was presented had been conducted during May-September 2016 under the re-granting scheme of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum.

- Presenting the project paper at the International Forum "Decentralisation Reform: Important Issues of Regional Development and Experience of the EU Member States and the EaP Countries" (Odesa, 21-22 June) - One of the tasks of this international forum was to discuss



the important aspects of the regional development in the context of decentralization. The UNP's Country Facilitator Hennadiy Maksak and the representative of ALDA (European Association for Local Democracy, Georgia) presented and discussed the analytical report on development of the local self-governance in the EaP Countries. The analytical paper was prepared under the project "Update on public administration and local government reform in the EaP" implemented in 2016 within the framework of the EaP CSF re-granting scheme.

- The study visits under the project "Step Forward to Social Services Decentralization in Eastern Partnership Countries" - During 11-15 June the visit to Georgia (Tbilisi - Kutaisi) was held in order to study experience, raise awareness of local NGOs and media on issues regarding decentralization of social services. The visit was held under the project "Step Forward to Social Services Decentralization in Eastern Partnership Countries" implemented under the EaP CSF re-granting scheme 2017. The project is being implemented jointly by non-governmental organizations of Georgia (Scientific-Intellectual Club "Dialogue of Generations"), Armenia (Armavir Development Center) and Bureau for political and social developments (Ukraine). The aim of the project is to share the experience of Ukraine on the decentralization of social services, to study the experience of Georgia in relation to the voucher system and to create a system for promoting the concept of decentralization of social services in the countries of the Eastern Partnership.

- The training on gender audit issues - under the project "Capacity development for gender subgroups of National Platforms in Armenia, Georgia, Belarus and Ukraine" supported by the EaP CSF the training was held on 13-14 June for trainers on the gender audit issues. Ukrainian partners in implementation of this project are NGO "Bureau for Gender Studies and Budgeting" and Centre "Women's Perspectives". After the training the participants elaborated "The guidelines on conducting the gender audit for the National Platforms of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum". The main aim of this document is to give some methodological support to the National Platforms of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on how to develop gender issues in the NPs activities and members of the National Platforms.

- EaP Think Tank Forum - Over 60 international and local experts gathered in Chisinau on 22 September for the first edition of the Eastern Partnership Think Tank Forum (EaP TTF). The event was organized in the framework of the EaP TTF project funded through the EaP CSF Re-granting Scheme 2017, as an initiative of the Institute for European Policies and Reforms (IPRE), the Georgian Institute for Strategic Studies (GISS) and New Europe Center (former Institute of World Policy). The day of discussions led to the development of a set of policy recommendations for the EaP Summit, also taking into consideration the Civil Society Declaration that will be adopted in Tallinn at the 9th EaP CSF Annual Assembly and EaP Civil Society Conference 2017, as well as the 20 Deliverables for 2020 document, reviewed in June. On a broader perspective, the EaP Think Tank Forum event was created for enhancing connections among the think tank community from the EU and EaP countries, with the aim of generating a maximum impact on their research, policy making and advocacy activities in promoting European values across the EaP region.

<http://eap-csf.eu/index.php/2017/10/02/eastern-partnership-think-tank-forum/>



POSITIVE MENTIONS OF THE NP AND THE FORUM AND ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDIA

The activities of UNP are regularly highlighted at the UNP's web page (<http://eap-csf.org.ua/>) and at the web pages of UNP's members, in the social networks.

Ukraine proposes the EU to create a new format for the Eastern Partnership countries <https://hromadskeradio.org/news/2017/10/03/ukrayina-proponuye-yes-stvoryty-novyy-format-dlya-krayin-shidnogo-partnerstva>

Civil experts have discussed the potential of the Eastern Partnership for Ukraine <http://gurt.org.ua/news/informator/41132/>

Bidenko – The objectives of the Eastern Partnership and the Strategic Communication Development Plan coincide <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-society/2317589-cili-shidnogo-partnerstva-i-plan-rozvitku-strategicnih-komunikacij-zbigautsa-bidenko.html>